GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:381
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides latest market prices and agriculture related information through mobile network to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the States where such services are being provided;

(c) whether priority is being given for providing information in local language through mobile network; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. However, the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Reuters, an international News agency, to disseminate market rates for selected commodities to farmers through SMS service via mobile network. Reuters has established a separate group called Reuters Market Light (RML) for this purpose. MSAMB is providing assistance to Reuters to get information from Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) in the State. The market information available on the Agmarknet Portal of the Ministry of Agriculture relating to the markets of Maharashtra is also used by Reuters under the said MoU. Reuters is delivering information in Marathi Language also. They are charging a subscription fee to provide information to the needy persons.